

President's report for the 84th AGM and the 2016-17 year

I present this report of the Club's activities during the year with pleasure.

Our year began with an entertaining presentation by our very own club member & Youth Winter Olympian, Elizabeth Reid; who had just returned from representing NZ in Norway. And we end the year welcoming long-time member, masters skier & ex-Winter Olympian Paddy Strain as our guest speaker tonight.

The club is fortunate to have several long-standing members still actively contributing on a committee level. These people know how the club runs & provide valuable guidance & support. Janine Rauber was responsible for convening a fabulous newspaper article in the Southland Times last year, which I am quite sure helped to increase our winter bookings including our ski weeks. She has also continued in her role in taking lodge bookings, which is expanding as the lodge gains popularity as an affordable accommodation option during the off-season. Thanks too to the respective contributions over the years of our other long-standing committee members; Barbara Lee, Nicky Fitzpatrick, Kass Rauber, Gordon Platfoot, Viv Platfoot & Kay Carelton.

Vicki & vice-President Martha Hogan, are sensible sounding boards & operate in a highly efficient way. We are so fortunate to have them involved on the committee.

Vicki Murphy took over as treasurer in 2011 & does an incredible job; not only keeping our finances in order, but also co-ordinating our ski week bookings, keeping me in line in regards to club procedures & assisting the club with her networking. Vicki has been instrumental in updating the club website to a high standard & also in the promotion of our AGM & other activities through Emails, Facebook & the Eye. Vicki, thank you on behalf of the club for 6 outstanding years of service. You play a pivotal role & will be greatly missed when a replacement is found enabling you to step down from this role & understandably pursue other interests.

Thank you so much to Emily Green for taking over the secretarial role over the past year. This hasn't been an easy role with so many issues brought to the table. We wish you well as you focus on your new family, home & farm. It was great to have Debbie Warrender join the committee last year. It's vital for the future of the club to take on new committee members, not only for their fresh ideas & approach on things; but also, to allow for the natural attrition of those that are wanting to step down.

Our small but experienced committee have achieved a great deal during the year. A maintenance manager job description & a check-list for the annual working bee has been developed by the committee. Wayne Hopcroft was then commandeered into the role of lodge maintenance manager & he & Heather went well beyond the call of duty in not only attending the annual NZSki meeting at Coronet Peak, but they also took up a couple of new couches & helped to install a new oven, a second dishwasher, 2 new hot water cylinders & a few other bits & pieces, while at the same time carrying out an autumn clean that would normally be done by a team of club members during a working bee. Super-Man & Wonder-Woman!

Fortunately, they had the presence of mind to check our massive & antiquated freezer while they were there, only to discover that it had finally given up the ghost after decades of service. Unfortunately, in anticipation of the next season, many of Alan & Jan's meals were there

entombed! This would have been pretty stressful on top of everything else, but Wayne & Heather took this in their stride & calmly got the old freezer cleaned out, removed & replaced. Wayne has also had new, sturdier bench seats made for the lodge to replace the existing ones that tip up alarmingly if you're not careful were you sit.

In July we were fortunate to receive \$1,600 from the Community Trust of Southland and \$862.5 in August from the SDC community initiatives fund for the replacement of our two bathroom hot water cylinders. For our ski weeks, Fonterra kindly supplied 4 kg cheese & Blue Sky Meats provided some legs of lamb and a couple of boxes of warm beanies. For all of these wonderful contributions the club is most grateful.

In response to a change in legislation the committee developed a safety plan for the Lodge over the winter, which has been put in place & been tabled for annual review. We now also have an action-plan so that we can be more coordinated with tasks throughout the year. A schedule has been produced - of resolutions passed as a committee over the years, which is a working document, designed to also help to streamline committee decision-making. Our constitution was written in 1948 & revised in 1967; so it is also well overdue for an update, as is proving a barrier to applying successfully for funding from particular organisations.

Alan & Jan Burrows continue to do a great job as our winter custodians at the lodge. Between them they keep the entrance clear of snow & ice. They skilfully carry out any general repair & maintenance jobs, whilst helping to maintain a clean, warm & welcoming environment for our guests. Alan & Jan also keep the committee well informed, which is appreciated & I hope they will continue to make themselves available for many years to come.

There was lots of excitement last winter when Coronet Peak opened early; but then had to close due to lack of snow. It was touch & go for our first ski week & for the first time in a long time, activities other than snow-sports had to be conjured up. Overall ski weeks were successful; if success can be gauged by the survival of all participants & the lack of illness, injuries & accidents! Thank you to Wayne Hopcroft, Martha Hogan, John Kennedy and to all of the wonderful parent helpers; without whom our affordable ski weeks would simply not operate. Parent helpers are also an important part of our hut parent succession plan, as at least one ski week should be attended before they can be considered as hut parents. Thanks also to the suppliers of baking & produce, which help to keep the cost of the ski week down & the atmosphere homely.

For the second year in a row, we have been fortunate to have a summer custodian associated with a summer paragliding school in residence at our lodge, with their students staying as guests. Whilst this wasn't a great season for them, a residential custodian has ment that committee members have not been required to stay in accompaniment of other guests during the off-season.

In closing, thank you once again to all committee members for their respective contributions over the last year. With so much achieved, I hope for a quieter, consolidation year ahead; with more social meetings involving some lovely new committee members. I now look forward to enjoying the company of our wider membership base during our working bee towards the end of the month. Thank you all for attending the Southland Ski Club's 84th AGM.

Sarah Kennedy
April 2017